

two large political parties. What shouting! what blowing of horns! what display of banners and flags, marching along thru rain and mud or hot sunshine and dust. If similar enthusiasm could be created for the Master and his kingdom, the ushering in of universal peace and righteousness would be a matter of not very much time. We find no fault with the enthusiasm that is the expression of true patriotism, but love for Christ and for his kingdom should awaken in every loyal heart an enthusiasm equally great and greater.

Quiet Observer

I have, with regret, long been conscious that many Christians fail to appreciate the beauties of their religion and to understand Bible truths. A great number read the Bible intelligently; yet they do not read with the fine understanding that should accompany meditation on God's Word. They do not grasp the deep, spiritual life of the Kingdom of Heaven. Too many lives testify to neglected Bible truths. It is about the most prominent of these neglected Bible truths that I wish to write.

The ordinances, the forms, and the doctrines of the Christian faith have been carefully taught by leaders in every time and in every sect. But Christ's mission to the inner life of man has been unduly realized by many teachers and is therefore not conceived by a large number of persons. To these, the Christian life means church attendance, alms giving, rites and ceremonies and a moral character. All these things are necessary in the true Christian; but they are results, not causes. This truth is neglected sadly. Christ's work embraces every good thing in this world. Every wrong can be corrected and every sorrow, every fear and every doubt wiped away in Him. But the mission of Jesus is first of all to the inner life of man. "I am come," he says, "that they might have life." And what is this life? It is the being that lies deeper far than thought can go, the fountain source of all life. Behind the very thoughts we think and the meditations we cherish there is an inner being; and it is here that Christ dwells when our souls awaken to receive him. It is from the inner life that our thoughts emanate whether they be pure or evil; it is from the inner life that our words flow whether they be good or bad; and from the inner life our deeds come, whether right or wrong.

It will be acknowledged that a vast number of believers have never come into the sweetness of a life hidden in God, where the heart of hearts glows with light divine and is quickened by love Eternal. It is of vital importance that the truth be impressed upon heart and mind for the development of a Christlike character.

To me, it is a mistaken view that the neglected Bible truths are neglected ordinances and ceremonies. Creeds, forms of worship and ordinances, we do not lack. Understand me, I would not depreciate the great value of these things. But I feel that it should be urged upon preachers and teachers not to overlook the foundation truth of Christian character.

Literary Notes

The Preacher's Magazine for November is a "Thanksgiving Number." It is a rare issue, full of able and interesting articles. The Rev. Wm. Paterson Bruce discourses upon "Thanksgiving" in a pleasing manner. The Rev. Frederick M. Davenport presents live and "up-to-date" thoughts upon "The Attitude of the Pulpit toward some Social Questions." Both of these themes will be sought after for their pertinency and timeliness. Mr. Davenport's thoughts ought to be frequently brought to the attention of the preachers of the land. Excellent likenesses accompany the words

of these eminent divines, secured by the effort of the publisher. Thanksgiving Thoughts bring a variety of interesting items to our attention. "A Good Medicine," by Wayland Hoyt, D.D., among them A Soldier's Prayer, by Major Ketcham, is good. The Children's Sermon, entitled "Bed Time," by James Wells, D.D., is full of happy lessons. "Homiletics," contains a Temperance "Bible Reading," Rev. H. Windross. Numerous sketches, appropriate to the season, by learned ministers, are found therein. Also a sketch on the "Woes of Intemperance," by Rev. Robert Harris, 1630. The department of "Preachers and Preaching," "Counsels to Teachers," "Notes and Illustrations," are of real worth. Dr. William E. Ketcham's Notes and Outlines upon the International Sunday School Lessons are a constant attraction in the Magazine. The articles on "Church Music" will awaken a wide reading. A wonderfully helpful Magazine and growing in popular favor. Published monthly at \$1.50 per year, single copies 15 cents. Wilbur B. Ketcham, Publisher, 7 and 9 West Eighth Street, New York.

The *Homiletic Review* for November opens with a paper by Bishop John H. Vincent, D.D., LL.D., entitled, "The Croyden Young Folk's Conference." The Bishop's ideal pastor, Arthur Manning, in one of his tea-table councils with some of the brethren, proposes a way of influencing and shaping the young life in his church. His opening words will indicate his purpose and prepares the way for his plan. He says:

"If children and young people are to be helped by the church, and if they are ever to help the church, they must be really and thoroughly interested in the church. And if they are to be interested they must be talked to, reasoned with, and instructed. They must know enough about the church to appreciate it. Festivals, picnics, song services, and the like, do not develop any genuine or permanent church enthusiasm. And talking to them is not enough. They, too, must talk. They must be made to feel that we, their seniors, are anxious about them; that our anxiety is well founded; that the thing we require of them, as in some sense the members of the church, are just and useful and necessary. We must also get at their views and feelings about the church, its significance, mission, and elements of power. We must find out their difficulties and doubts. To do this we must give them opportunity to talk freely and fully under circumstances most favorable to a frank expression of their opinions and feelings. I am in favor of a 'Young Folks' Church Conference'."

Bishop Vincent's outline of a scheme for reaching the desired end ought to interest and help many a preacher now perplexed over this problem.

Perhaps the most lucid and important discussion of the "negro question" that has appeared in an American periodical for many years is the opening symposium of the November *Arena*. There are four debaters—two distinguished colored men and two white men thoroughly familiar with the facts of our domestic race problem. In this presentation of "both sides," which is a characteristic feature of *The Arena*, the reader is enabled to form an intelligent and accurate opinion on a pressingly vital topic. Other subjects and writers in this number are: "A Psalm of Brotherhood," Prof. Geo. D. Herron; "Direct Legislation in America," Dr. Ellis P. Oberholtzer; "Prosperity Probed," Hiram Maine; "Transportation of the World's Wheat Crop," Geo. E. Walsh; "A Christian Handicap," Elizabeth Starr Martin. The Department features include a "Conversation" with Elizabeth M. B. Harbert, editorials on "Topics of the Times," and critical reviews of "Books of the day," contributed by B. O. Flower, who is now associated with Charles Brodie Patterson and John Emery McLean in the editorship. *The Arena* is published in New York at \$2.50 a year, and is for sale at news-stands at 25 cents a copy.

Brevities

The population of the earth doubles itself in 260 years.

About 200 tons of refuse are swept off London streets daily.

There are 205,000 more manufacturing establishments in this country than there were in 1820.

Nebraska has never raised so large a crop of lambs as this year. Texas has its largest crop for eight years.

In the United States there is one church for every 337 people. Boston has one for every 1,000, Minneapolis one for every 1,054. Twenty-four millions people attend church in the United States every Sunday.

The eruption of Vesuvius is gradually increasing in intensity, and the authorities are taking the usual precautions to prevent imprudent tourists from approaching too near the crater.

An Australian Volunteer is carrying a bullet in his brain, embedded too deeply to allow of extraction, and he declares that but for the knowledge of the fact he never felt better in his life.

A pious Liverpool lady has devoted her odd moments to writing out all the books of the Bible. A local preacher in the Midlands has three times written out the whole contents of the New Testaments.

Twenty-nine cases of sudden death in three days is Chicago's recent record. Physicians say that great changes in the weather and temperature were in large part responsible for the deaths.

Professor Lloyd Morgan, in a recent address, stated that he had found that young chickens, taken straight from the incubator, could swim very well, the power of swimming being perfectly instinctive.

The Chicago Historical Society has a fine new building that cost \$180,000, and a library of over twenty-six bound volumes and 60,000 unbound volumes, besides many busts, paintings, etc.

When plants are grown in dry air their stems and leaves have a more complicated structure than when the air is moist.

An old gentleman of over 80 visited Goldsmith's grave in the Temple in England recently and declaimed the whole of "The Deserted Village."

It is estimated that American travelers annually spend \$100,000,000 in Europe.

Five ounces and a half of grapes are required to make one glass of good wine.

During the present century 400 human lives, \$115,000,000, and 200 ships have been lost in fruitless efforts to find the North Pole.

As seen from the moon the earth would appear four times greater in diameter and 13 times wider in surface than the moon does to us. The illumination of the earth is 14 times greater on the moon than that of the moon on the earth.

In the archaic vase room at the British Museum anyone can gaze upon babies' feeding bottles of sun-baked clay which were antique when Joseph went into Egypt.

In England during the past few years, it is claimed, 140,320 farm laborers have been displaced by machinery, while the making of the latter, it is asserted, required only the labor of 4,600 men for one year.

Comfort powders are beautiful little stanzas or verses of courage and good cheer, written on small papers and rolled up like powdered medicines. One is to be unrolled, read and enjoyed each morning. Each one is a mystery until its turn comes. And the surprise is a part of the pleasure.